4/28/92

Ms. Gabrielle Barth
Penthouse International
1965 Broadway
New York, NY 10023- 5965

Dear Gabrielle,

Thank you very much for the typescript of the interview and for the New York Times clipping reporting that JFK is in videocassette for rentals.

It happens first that the Times was late in learning this and that I wondered why Stone/Warners were doing it so soon.

Most Saturday nights we dine at the Oriental restaurant of friends of ours we were sorry was not open when you and Rudi were here. Three weeks before the Times story the owner of a local book and videocassette store who is often there when we are told me that that very day he had gotten one of those JFK cassettes in the mail.

I was surprised and asked him if that were not unusual. He thought it was a bit early. He said that these cassettes would cost him $95 and he would be limited to renting them out.

I think he said that it would be about six months before they'd be on sale in the stores.

I still find myself wondering why so soon.

I do not know how the business end works, what "gross" really represents. And I'm not up to date in the limited way I am on this through what is sent to me. But the last gross figure I saw was $60,000,000. Now if this means what the theaters took in, and if it does, I do not know what percentage went to Warner, then I suspect it might represent a financial disaster for Warner. This is because the figure also represents Warner's reported investment as reported in the trade press I've read. This broke down into $45,000,000 to Stone for making the movie and $15,000,000 in advertising and promotions.

If so, they could be looking for the extra income from selling cassettes for rental.

Applause Books is publishing the shooting script with selections from the published controversy, arranged by Stone, and another publisher has produced a book for use in schools and does not respond to inquiries from a history professor friend, none.

So the moving finger still writes and I hope it writes ~~inredir~~ in red.

Again thanks and our best to you and to Rudi

Harold

Harold Weisberg